GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6037
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
IMPORT THROUGH NEPAL
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether any meeting has been held between India and Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed in the meeting; (

(c) whether the Indian Government have raised the issue of increasing import of vanaspati, acrylic yarn and zinc oxide through Nepal with the Nepal Government; (

(d) if so, the details thereof; (

(e) the reaction of the Government of Nepal thereto; and (

(f) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the import of cheaper vanaspati and other products to save the Indian industries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): A meeting of the India-Nepal Inter- Governmental Committee Meetingwas held on August 2-5, 2001 at Kathmandu to review matters relating to bilateral trade. The delegations were led by the Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal.The issues discussed at the meeting included promotion and protection of investments, harmonization of standards, regulation of vehicular traffic, improvement of infrastructural facilities to promote bilateral trade, joint ventures, effect of emission norms in Nepal on export of Indian vehicles, facilities relating to Nepalese trade- in- transit through the Indian territory and facility of duty - free entry into India of goods manufactured in Nepal.

(c) to (f) : The Indianside underlined that a surge has taken place in the imports of certain Nepalese commodities such as vanaspati, acrylic yarn, copper wire and zinc oxide under the preferential trade regime provided by the Treaty and there was adverse impact of these imports on Indian industries. It was also emphasized thatthere is a need for taking safeguard measures, under the Treaty, to protect the Indian industry. The Nepaleseside showed concern about such measures being taken. However, both sides agreed that these problems needed to be addressed with a sense of urgency.